(viii) Widening the lost of interest subvention of 2% for pre-shipment and post-shipment credit to include jute textiles and carpets, processed cashew, coffee and tea, solvent extracted de-oiled cake, and plastics & linoleum.

(ix) Rasing the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana by Rs. 300 crore (from Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 500 crore)

(x) Reduction in customs duty on some items relating to textiles sector.

Government support for SSIs

533. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oppurtunity cost of continuing with the Small Scale Industries(SSIs) reservation is very high specially as small units are unable to respond to the rapidity of technological changes due to limitation on investment and capacity prescribed in the policy;

(b) if so, whether Government plans to provide requisite infrastructure and institutional support to help SSIs to effect vertical integration with larger Units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Besides putting in place a framework to classify Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to bring out the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) continuum under the MSME Development Act, 2006, the Government (in the Ministry of MSME) has initiated some steps to enable the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to grow vertically rather than exhibit the current pattern of horizontal growth. These steps include, *inter-alia*,

(i) enabling MSEs to obtain 15% subsidy for adoption of 48 currently idenified modern technologies by availing financial assistance of up to Rs. 1 crore under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme;

(ii) assistance for the upgradation of infrastructure in industrial clusters under the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP).

The Ministry of MSME has also announced the implementation of a 10 point initiative under the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) for enhancing the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector, particularly the SMEs. The implementation of this Programme is likely to assist in achievement of this objective as well.

Regularisation of cumulative amounts of excess expenditure

534. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the cumulative amounts of excess expenditure incurred by the States and the Centre remaining without regularization according to the Constitution of India as at the end of the financial years;

(b) the steps taken on the progress made in regularization; and

(c) whether this defect can be corrected once and for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) For the financial year 2005-06, there was an excess expenditure of Rs. 99,527.64 crore (including Civil, Railways, Defence and Post). The excess expenditure in respect of Civil, Defence and Post was regularized *vide* Appropriation Bill (No.5), 1007 assented by the President of India on December 12, 2007. Excess expenditure of Railways (Rs. 2333.46 crore) has not yet been regularized.

For the year 2006-07, the excess expenditure was Rs. 37, 304.37 crore (excluding Railways) which is yet to be regularized. The Appropriation Accounts of Railways for the year 2006-07 are yet to be laid before Parliament.

In States upto the year 2006-07, the excess expenditure was Rs. 2,79,098.32 crore which is yet to be regularized.

(b) As regards Central Government, the excess expenditure upto the fiinancial year 2005-06, except Railways, has alerady been regularized. The excess expenditure for the year 2006-07 shall be regularized after receipt of recommendations of the PAC.

So far as the excess expenditures of the State Governments are concerned, the States are in various stages of regularization based on the recommendations of State PACs.

(c) The excess expenditure is regularized after scrutiny of Appropriation Account by the PAC and based on its recommendations.

Funds lying with investor protection fund

535. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds lying to the credit of Investor Protection Fund with Stock Exchanges, till date;

(b) how are these funds utilized;

(c) what are the activities/steps undertaken by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) towards creating investors awareness;

(d) if so, the details of last three years, year-wise, place-wise and activity-wise;

(e) who administers these funds; and

(f) whether Government is contemplating to appoint trustees of eminence with standing in society to administer these funds to the advantage of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Investor Protection Funds with Exchanges had a credit of Rs. 603.6 crore as on January 31, 2008.

(b) These funds are used to honour the claims of clients of defaulting brokers or where the broker is unable to pay such claims.

(c) and (d) SEBI has statutory responsibility of promoting investor education. It has recognized investors associations which conduct workshops in towns and cities to enhance investor awareness of securities market. At these workshops audio-visual clippings of SEBI's message to invest with knowledge are aired and educative material in English. Hindi and local languages distributed. Since 2003 nearly 3000 workshops have been conducted over 500 cities and towns in 23 States and union territories./ SEBI has publisehd reading and